

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A plate assembly comprising:

a plate member having a recessed portion; and

a lid member mounted on said plate member to cover said recessed portion,

wherein said plate member has a bonded surface which is formed so as to surround said recessed portion, said lid member being bonded to said bonded surface with an adhesive which permeates a gap is formed between said plate member and said lid member around said recessed portion so as to allow a liquid to permeate said gap due to capillarity while preventing said liquid from without entering said recessed portion, and

said plate member has an adhesive relief portion which is formed around said bonded surface so as to be recessed from said bonded surface.

2-3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said lid member has a through hole for injecting said ~~liquid~~ adhesive into a space which is defined between said plate member and said lid member and which is communicated with said recessed portion.

5. (canceled).

6. (original) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said lid member has a through hole for feeding a sample into said recessed portion.

7-9 (canceled).

10. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 9 1, wherein said lid member has an adhesive injecting hole which is open to a portion of said adhesive relief portion of said plate member in the vicinity of said bonded surface.

11. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 9 1, wherein said lid member has an adhesive injecting hole, at least a part of which is open to said adhesive relief portion of said plate member.

12. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 9 1, wherein said lid member has an adhesive injecting hole which is open to said bonded surface on the side of an end portion of said recessed portion.

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 9 1, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said bonded surface of said plate member ~~and said lid member~~ has a spacer protrusion which ~~contacts the other of said bonded surface of said plate member and said lid member to form said gap between said bonded surface of said plate member and said lid member so as to allow said adhesive to permeate said gap due to capillarity.~~

15. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 9 1, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said adhesive relief portion of said plate member and ~~said lid member~~ has a spacer protrusion which contacts ~~the other of said adhesive relief portion of said plate member and said lid member to form said gap between said bonded surface of said plate member and said lid member so as to allow said adhesive to permeate said gap due to capillarity.~~

16. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 9 1, wherein each of said bonded surface of said plate member and said lid member has a spacer protrusion, and said spacer protrusion of said plate member contacts said spacer protrusion of said lid member ~~to form said gap between said bonded surface of said plate member and said lid member so as to allow said adhesive to permeate said gap due to capillarity.~~

17. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 9 1, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said plate member and ~~said lid member~~ have has a plurality of spacer protrusions which contact ~~the other of said plate member and said lid member to form said gap between said bonded surface of said plate member and said lid member so as to allow said adhesive to permeate said gap due to capillarity,~~ and a distance between adjacent two of said plurality of spacer protrusions increases as a distance from said recessed portion increases.

18. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in any one of claims 14 through 17, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said bonded surface of said plate member and ~~said lid member~~ has a protrusion which has a ~~lower~~ height ~~than said gap~~ so as not to

contact ~~the other of said bonded surface of said plate member~~  
and said lid member.

19. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 9  
1, which further comprises a spacer, arranged between said plate  
member and said lid member, ~~for forming said gap between said~~  
~~bonded surface of said plate member and said lid member so as to~~  
~~allow said adhesive to permeate said gap due to capillarity.~~

20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended) A plate assembly ~~as set forth in claim~~  
~~20~~, comprising:

a plate member having a recessed portion; and  
a lid member mounted on said plate member to cover said  
recessed portion,

wherein said plate member has a sealing surface which is  
formed so as to surround said recessed portion, said plate  
member having a lid member fixing surface which is separated  
from said sealing surface by a pass partition groove, and which  
is fixed to said lid member being fixed to said lid member  
fixing surface to form said gap, and a filler permeates between  
said sealing surface and said lid member ~~so as to allow said~~  
~~filler to permeate said gap~~ due to capillarity without entering  
said recessed portion.

22. (original) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21,  
wherein said filer is arranged between said sealing surface and  
said lid member.

23. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein said lid member has a filler injecting hole, which is open to a portion of said pass partition groove of said plate member in the vicinity of said sealing surface, for injecting said filler into said pass partition groove ~~to allow said filler to permeate said gap due to capillarity.~~

24. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein said lid member has a filler injecting hole, at least a part of which is open to said pass partition groove of said plate member, for injecting said filler into said pass partition groove ~~to allow said filler to permeate said gap due to capillarity.~~

25. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein said lid member has a filler injecting hole, which is open to said sealing surface on the side of an end portion of said recessed portion of said plate member, for injecting said filler into said pass partition groove ~~to allow said filler to permeate said gap due to capillarity.~~

26. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said sealing surface of said plate member ~~and said lid member~~ has a spacer protrusion which contacts ~~the other of said sealing surface of said plate member and said lid member~~ to form said gap between said sealing surface of said plate member and said lid member so as to allow said filler to permeate said gap due to capillarity.

27. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said lid member fixing surface of

said plate member and ~~said lid member~~ has a spacer protrusion which contacts ~~the other of said lid member fixing surface of said plate member and said lid member to form said gap between said lid member fixing surface of said plate member and said lid member so as to allow said filler to permeate said gap due to~~ capillarity.

28. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein each of said sealing surface of said plate member and said lid member has a spacer protrusion, said spacer protrusion of said plate member contacting said spacer protrusion of said lid member ~~to form said gap between said sealing surface of said plate member and said lid member so as to allow said filler to permeate said gap due to~~ capillarity.

29. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein ~~at least one of said plate member and said lid member have~~ has a plurality of spacer protrusions which contact ~~the other of said plate member and said lid member to form said gap between said sealing surface of said plate member and said lid member so as to allow said filler to permeate said gap due to~~ capillarity, and a distance between adjacent two of said plurality of spacer protrusions increases as a distance from said recessed portion increases.

30. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in any one of claims 26 through 29, wherein ~~at least one of said sealing surface of said plate member and said lid member~~ has a protrusion which has a ~~lower~~ height ~~than said gap~~ so as not to contact ~~the other of said sealing surface of said plate member and said lid member~~.

31. (currently amended) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, which further comprises a spacer, arranged between said plate member and said lid member, ~~for forming said gap between said sealing surface of said plate member and said lid member so as to allow said filler to permeate said gap due to capillarity.~~

32. (new) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said lid member has a spacer protrusion which contacts said bonded surface of said plate member.

33. (new) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said lid member has a spacer protrusion which contacts said adhesive relief portion of said plate member.

34. (new) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said lid member has a plurality of spacer protrusions which contact said plate member, and a distance between adjacent two of said plurality of spacer protrusions increases as a distance from said recessed portion increases.

35. (new) A plate assembly as set forth in any one of claims 14 through 17, wherein said lid member has a protrusion which has a height so as not to contact said bonded surface of said plate member.

36. (new) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein said lid member has a spacer protrusion which contacts said sealing surface of said plate member.

37. (new) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein said lid member has a spacer protrusion which contacts said lid member fixing surface of said plate member.

38. (new) A plate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein said lid member has a plurality of spacer protrusions which contact said plate member, and a distance between adjacent two of said plurality of spacer protrusions increases as a distance from said recessed portion increases.

39. (new) A plate assembly as set forth in any one of claims 26 through 29, wherein said lid member has a protrusion which has a height so as not to contact said sealing surface of said plate member.